



TOWN OF MANSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
November 12, 2013
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Frank Perrotti, Assistant Chair, Resident
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Trooper Stephen King
Candace Morell, MMS Vice Principal
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Kate Bohannan, YSB Social Worker
Sonya Poulin, MSW intern

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- October 8, 2013 minutes were approved.

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - **Holiday Program:** 84 families are involved with the Foodshare Thanksgiving turkey giveaway
 - **Adopt-a-family Program:** they are accepting applications and getting donors for the program
 - **Holiday Hill funds**
 - The department is planning to survey recipients and donors about how the programs are going and what improvements could be made
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Grief Matters:** Monthly group continues to meet. Members feel this is a very important program and acknowledge that it is very emotional and difficult for potential participants, so we are continuing to work on ways to reach out to those who are grieving to feel comfortable utilizing this

service. The December potluck has been well received in the past and we are planning it again to help families prepare for the holidays, as we know it can be a difficult time of year for many.

- **Grandparent's Raising Grandchildren:** They had their first meeting of the academic year and had great attendance. They talked about how helpful it is to get the support from each other.
- **Cope:** Cope is up and running in all of the schools. We completed our in-school volunteer orientation, which was well-received by both the volunteers and the school staff. We have an average of about 20 students in each school and 30 very active volunteers.
- **Big Friends:** The Big Friends program is at capacity with almost 50 people participating on Tuesday nights, including Littles, Bigs, and parents. Carrie Holman, the special education teacher, has expanded the program by reaching out to teachers in order to better incorporate homework into the program.
- **Holiday programs:** YSB will assist Adult Services with the distribution of food and turkeys to families for Thanksgiving. Kate Bohannon, YSB social worker, is participating in the planning for the department's holiday program.
- **Kidtrax:** We have officially started Kidtrax this month. Last month was spent importing client information from MySeniorCenter. This month we are participating in training and working on inputting all of our client information into the database and our interns have been a big help.
- **MMS X-Block in-school counseling:** We finished our assessments of fifth grade students who were formerly in Cope and are working on building a client list of students to be seen at this time.
- **Joy:** Tickets were offered to families to attend the Aladdin and Other Stories program at Jorgensen and it was well-received.
- **Psychological Services:** We toured Psychological Services' new facility and we continue to work with Dr. Barton, the director, to coordinate services. We feel this has the potential to be an excellent resource for Mansfield families.

IV. Old Business:

- **Police Explorer's Program:** had an introductory meeting and is looking for a few more students

V. New Business:

- **Update from Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker:** she has been working here for 2 months and it is going well. The schools have been supportive. She is attending seminars to be a certified supervisor.

VI. Other:

- Chuck went to a JRB meeting in Hebron and it was an effective meeting. The Board decided not to have a presentation about JRB's because we do not have a need for a JRB at this time.

- December 7 there will be a Stuff-a-Cruiser toy drive
- VII. Adjournment**
- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. November 12, 2013 is the next meeting.